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(54) Title: LIQUID COMPOSITIONS COMPRISING STABILITY ENHANCING SURFACTANTS AND A METHOD OF ENHANCING LOW TEMPERATURE STABILITY THEREOF

(57) Abstract

The present invention relates to lamellar structured liquid cleansing compositions comprising 5 % to 50 % of a surfactant system comprising (a) an anionic or mixture of anionics and (b) an amphoteric and/or zwitterionic surfactant in mixture, wherein alkalimetal alkylamphoacetate comprises 25 % to 90 % of component (b). A method of enhancing low temperature stability of such lamellar structured liquid cleansing compositions by the selection of an alkalimetal alkylamphoacetate in an amount of 25 % to 90 % of the component (b) is provided. Excellent low temperature stability is achieved.

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CLAIMS

1. A lamellar structured liquid cleansing composition comprising 5% to 50% of a surfactant system comprising:

- 5 (a) anionic or mixture of anionic surfactants; and  
(b) an amphoteric and/or zwitterionic surfactant or mixture thereof;

wherein alkalimetal alkylamphoacetate comprises 25% to 90% of component (b).

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2. A composition according to claim 1 wherein alkalimetal alkylamphoacetate comprises 30 to 90% of component (b).

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3. A composition according to claim 2, wherein alkalimetal amphoacetate comprises 40% to 90% of component (b).

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4. A composition according to claim 1, wherein anionic is selected from the group consisting of alkyl sulfates, acyl isethionates and mixtures thereof.

5. A composition according to claim 1, wherein component (b) comprises 0.1% to 25% betaine.

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6. A composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition additionally comprises 0% to 10% of nonionic surfactant.

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7. A method of enhancing low temperature stability of a lamellar structured liquid cleansing composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein said method comprises selecting the amphoteric and/or zwitterionic surfactant component (b) such that alkalimetal alkyl amphoacetate comprises 25% to

35

90% of component (b).

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**(54) Title**  
Liquid compositions comprising stability enhancing surfactants and a method of enhancing low temperature stability thereof

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**(56) Related Art**  
US 5409640  
AU 67373/96  
US 5478490

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The Claims defining the invention are as follows:

1. A lamellar structured liquid cleansing composition comprising 5% to 50% of a surfactant system comprising:
  - a) anionic or mixture of anionic surfactants; and
  - b) an amphoteric and/or zwitterionic surfactant or mixture thereof;wherein alkalimetal alkylamphoacetate comprises 25% to 90% of component (b); and
  - c) a structurant selected from liquid fatty acids comprising oleic acid, isostearic acid, linoleic acid, ricinoleic acid, elaidic acid, arichodonic acid, myristoleic acid, palmitoleic acid and mixtures thereof, or polyalkylene glycol fatty acid esters comprising propylene glycol isostearate, propylene glycol oleate, glyceryl isostearate, glyceryl oleate, polyglyceryl diisostearate, and mixtures thereof.
2. A composition according to Claim 1 wherein alkalimetal alkylamphoacetate comprises 30 to 90% of component (b).
3. A composition according to Claim 2, wherein alkalimetal alkylamphoacetate comprises 40% to 90% of components (b).
4. A composition according to Claim 1, wherein the anionic surfactant is selected from the group consisting of alkyl sulfates, acyl isethionates and mixtures thereof.
5. A composition according to Claim 1, wherein component (b) comprises 0.1% to 25% betaine.



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6. A composition according to Claim 1, wherein the composition additionally comprises 0% to 10% of nonionic surfactant.

5 7. A method of enhancing low temperature stability of a lamellar structured cleansing composition as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said method comprises selecting the amphoteric and/or zwitterionic surfactant component (b) such that alkalimetal alkyl amphotoacetate comprises 25% to 90% of  
10 component (b).

8. A method according to Claim 7, wherein alkalimetal alkylamphoacetate comprises 30% to 90% of component (b).

15 9. A method according to Claim 8, wherein alkali metal alkylamphoacetate comprises 40% to 90% of component (b).

10. A method according to any one of Claims 7 to 9 wherein the lamellar structured liquid cleansing composition  
20 comprises one or more of the components of Claims 4 to 6.

11. A composition as hereinbefore described with reference to the examples.

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UNILEVER PLC

By Its Patent Attorneys

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